

Business Notices.

MILLINERY GOODS, FOR SPRING SALES.

PIRELLI & CO.
No. 76 Chambers St., N. Y.
have just opened their spring millinery store, and are enabled to sell at the very lowest prices, a large and beautiful assortment of hats, bonnets, and trimmings, in all the latest styles, and at the lowest prices. Orders by letter promptly and carefully attended to.

GENTLEMEN'S HATS—SPRING FASHION FOR 1855.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1855.

Advertisements for the Tribune of Monday ought to be sent in before 9 o'clock on Saturday evening.

CONGRESS, YESTERDAY.

SENATE, March 2.—A number of bills of minor importance were disposed of, when the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was taken up. The vote on the Clayton amendment was reconsidered, and, after a brief debate, the amendment, which was to strike off all that related to the tariff, was adopted. Yeas, 24; Nays, 21. This kills the entire tariff modification business. The Senate then went on to amend and alter the Civil bill, adding all manner of extra allowances and gratuities to public employees. The report of the Committee of Conference on the Indian Appropriation bill was concurred in. The bill to carry into effect the Convention to settle claims between the United States and England, was passed. The General Appropriation bill was resumed, and a number of extensive amendments voted in. While Mr. Cooper was speaking on Florida Claims, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE, March 2.—The House took up the Army Appropriation bill, and non-concurred in the Senate's appropriation of \$30,000 to purchase Camels for use in the army. The Four Regiments amendment was agreed to. The House concurred in the Senate's amendment to the Post-Office Appropriation bill, authorizing the Postmaster-General to contract for a single monthly mail along the Pacific coast. The House also agreed to all the Senate's amendments to the Emigrant Passenger bill.

Anthony Burns, the fugitive whose return to his alleged owner in Virginia cost the United States Government some fifty thousand dollars, is now in this city as a freeman, having been purchased for something more than a fifth part of that sum, by some of the persons most actively concerned in causing the original expenditure. Mr. Burns appeared before a public meeting at Dr. Pennington's Church last evening and told the simple and interesting story of his varied experience as a slave. He seems to be an intelligent and modest negro, and for a new beginner, delivers himself in a very creditable style of oratory. His purchase, just at this time, is supposed to have some reference to the excitement just now alive in Massachusetts with reference to his rendition to slavery by Mr. Commissioner Lovins. Whether the buying of him back again will satisfy the people of that Commonwealth that slave-catching is a respectable occupation, and that slave-catchers ought to be chosen for offices of trust and honor, remains to be seen.

The bill in relation to ship passengers prepared by the merchants of this city, and which passed the House of Representatives unanimously a few days since, has passed the Senate, with two amendments, in which the House has concurred. One of these provides that all the food served to the passengers shall be furnished to them properly cooked. The present custom in our packets is to cook the food or not, as a majority of the passengers may elect; but it appears desirable that all the food should be carefully prepared under the supervision of the officers of the ship. The bill now before the British Parliament makes the same requirement in regard to cooked provisions. Another amendment, made in the Senate, provides that the ship-owner shall, on entering his ship at any port in this country, return \$5 of the passage-money for every passenger over eight years of age who shall have died on the passage from disease.

A SOCIAL REVELATION.

We present to-day a sad and singular story, with an ex-Cabinet Minister of England for the hero, which we would, for the honor of humanity, had not been, but which we fear presents too true a picture, though no doubt in darker shade, of that forgetfulness, in the pursuit of pleasure, of every high and noble feeling, which marks the private life of too many of England's aristocracy. We have little doubt it will serve to swell that wave which beats just now with such threatening roar against England's weak and worn institutions. And yet, what seems most strange of all, is that at such an hour, when the aristocracy, instead of making an effort, like the Roman general, to fold their robes, and fall decently before the statue of the people, their helpless apathy is only broken by such disclosures as the Handcock case unfolds, or by a silly pageant of nummery, such as the installation of Lord Aberdeen with the garter, in which a host of titled nobles, with a folly akin to madness, and which must at each hour sting the people into rage, pass their day in parading with black rods and gold sticks, kissing hands and imitating, without having the same motive, the most unmeaning of those nummeries which they condemn elsewhere. Instead of gliding on the sword, England's nobility are fastening on the garter.

Melancholy and pitiful as all these recurring scenes are, they are like all such evils, not without their advantage. They proclaim by facts more eloquent than words of fire to a wondering world, dazzled by outside glare and glitter, and by the greatness built up by long possession in their despite and the labor of her people, that no system of government can stand the test of an enlightened age which is not based upon the broad foundation of humanity and equal rights. When genius only finds its reward if enmeshed with a coat of arms, it is virtually annihilated.

What was it that in the retreat of Moscow lit the weary soldier on his path, or that gathered round "le petit Caporal" thousands of hearts ready to lay down their lives in his service? The feeling that there was an eye which rested on every noble deed, and marked the deer for distinction. But the other day the difference of the French and English system was singularly contrasted. When the story was told Lord Raglan of the valor of some brave man, who had disengaged himself from and slain three Russians, he included him five pounds. On the same day a French general, seeing some brave man perform some brave deed, placed him on his horse beside him, and conveying him to the rear, kissed his hand in devotion to his gallant virtue. Which reward inspires the noblest sentiment, or makes the bravest soldier? While all these incidents, and every new message from Sevastopol, disclose the effects of such institutions upon the men the Handcock story throws some light upon their influence on women.

While the lower classes, brutalized by ignorance and oppression, are dragged each day before the Police Courts of England for acts of ill-treatment toward women which disentitle them to the name of man, the higher classes, privileged too often from punishment, and taught to consider as fashionable a distinction in vice, know none of those feelings of high and elevated devotion which woman inspires in noble men, and which even in

their own order in its olden days, would start 10,000 swords from their scabbards to avenge a look which threatened her with insult. In no land are there more beautiful women, in the purest and highest sense, than in England. But there are hundreds who prefer a life of loneliness and sacrifice, those tender aspirations which belong to every woman, rather than be the creature, instead of being the wife of man. Such are the women from whom Miss Nightingale and her gentle band are taken. To them properly belongs the inspiring man with what is true and noble, and we fancy we see, in the loftier field to which she is near by the voice of men being so gently lifted, the brightest beacon of hope for the future. Dark as may be the story which our page unfolds to-day, and painful as may be the shortcomings which each new hour discloses, it is at least a consoling and beautiful relief to find that among the higher classes there are left many noble and gallant men whose deeds almost redeem their order, and many gentle and sacrificing women whose virtues weigh down a multitude of sins.

WAR BY CONTRACT.

Why should Government do badly for the people what they can do well for themselves? This vital question escapes the attention of the people of all countries—even this one, enlightened as it is styled. They call on Hercules, forgetting to put their shoulder to the wheel, and the result is maladministration of public affairs, and national loss and discontent. Not, however, for a long time, in so poignant a manner, has the inferiority of Government clumsiness and waste, compared with private handiness and economy, been displayed as in the distribution of necessary supplies and extra comforts to the British troops in the Crimea and at Scutari, severally made by the Government on the one hand, and on the other by the Agent of *The London Times*, provided with £10,000 from a patriotic fund. What inefficiency and imbecility of the first, backed up with the pride of rank, title, ancestry and regal and parliamentary sanctions—what aptitude and talent in the other, a simple citizen, without Norman lies or red tie distinction to give him importance, to smooth the way by creating deference to his orders and secure official cooperation! Indeed, the case is so striking that we cite particularly the details as afforded by the last advices. When the news of the suffering and mortality attending the troops first reached England, there were good people of opinion that it would never do to let their brave soldiers perish. A subscription accordingly was begun, and the proprietors of *The London Times* were requested to distribute the sums received. When the fund raised amounted to £10,000, which it immediately attained, *The Times* declined to undertake to distribute more, and immediately sent a proper person to the East to fulfill the duty they had assumed. The result of the labors of this agent is well known through the British press. He anticipated the solemn and timely action of officials, and in connection with the angelic labors of Miss Nightingale and her corps of nurses, carried comfort and mercy to the sick and suffering, and rescued many from death. The result has been so admirable that *The Times* is again in the field as grand almoner under a new subscription. The Government, however, has expended £1,570,000, making £50 a head for the greatest number of the British troops in the Crimea at one time, and yet what a botch; so much so that £10,000 in the hands of private administration becomes an estimable matter! And there is yet besides a rich field for the disposition of the new fund, as the deaths in the hospital were increasing from 40 to 70 a day by the latest news.

Now the question occurs, if this detail is so infinitely better administered by private hands, why not let the whole war be so conducted? Given, the necessity of a war, why not let it be undertaken by contract? Why, for instance, not issue such advertisements as the following: *SEALED PROPOSALS* will be received by Government from persons desirous of supplying the army, on approved in every manner, transports included, an army of 100,000 men to cooperate with the French Army, for the capture of Sevastopol, on the following terms:—

Why not advertise for these equally as for contracts to carry the mails, or build light-houses or breakwaters? The custom has been to the contrary. But it has been sheer custom, and nothing more. Even now the necessity of the case is encroaching on this stupidity of routine. The inefficiency of Government management in the Crimea is having its natural effect. The wrath of the press is poured on the fogies and dunkeys, and hereditary masters are told flatly that the army must be reconstructed. If England is not to be wiped out from among the powers of the Continent. But still more: we learn from the English newspapers that a London firm has made proposals to victual the English army in the Crimea, proposing to supply food, consisting of three substantial meals a day, at the rate of 3/3 a head a day, and for 3d. to provide excellent tents; binding themselves in the heaviest penalties, and further offering to be responsible for the punctual delivery of every meal to the soldiers; and asking no assistance from Government for the performance of the task, except their forbearance and non-interference. And likewise, that a French company has offered to raise, within the shortest time, a legion consisting of from 10,000 to 20,000 men, for the service of the English Government, the soldiers to be drawn from those who, according to the recent law of emigration, are free to quit France.

Here we have all the details out—food and soldiers to be raised by private companies. Why not extend it, and cut off all the operative and costly old machinery of Government? Why not let out the entire war to be waged by the enterprise of private capitalists and companies? One contract might cover the capture of Cronstadt and St. Petersburg; another that of Odessa; another the conquest of the Crimea; another that of Poland, and so on. There is little doubt but the contractors would make arrangements adequate to do their respective jobs with dispatch and certainty, and at far less cost to the people than is required by the present cumbersome and inefficient system. Why not introduce this reform? Who can bring an argument against making war by contract which is not decisive against the propriety of making war at all?

THE COLLINS BOXES.

The Mail Steamer Appropriation bill has passed both Houses, and is (we presume) either already signed by the President, or certain soon to be so. In speaking our mind more fully as to its merits, we shall, therefore, labor under no embarrassing consciousness that we are grieving and annoying neighbors whom we esteem, whose enterprise has our heartiest good wishes, and whose achievements we have so often and so heartily commended. They have obtained all they could

ask or desire, and whatever we may now say is intended only to protect the National Treasury, if possible, from future suction akin to their's, which we understand to be a fact accomplished.

What are the facts in the case? Messrs. Collins & Co. solicited of Congress a Steamship Mail Contract for the route connecting this City with Liverpool. Their prayer was granted—their terms accepted—no competition was invited—they had their own way throughout. Having obtained their contract, they set about constructing their ships, and built good ones—we fear too good—that is, too large, too sumptuous, too expensive. They put them on the line, and their performance exceeded the promise—exceeded public expectation. They surpassed their British rivals in the average celerity of their passages, though the character and performance of the Cunarders was sensibly improved by the bold rivalry of the Collins line, which did everything that was expected of it; but make money for its stockholders. Here it failed, and it was a tender point. It had a fair share of the passengers and (after a season) of the freight; but the ships were so large that they required large crews to man them, and extraordinary quantities of coal to run them; so that the owners realized a harvest of glory, but no money. So they applied to Congress, several years ago, for a large increase of their annual compensation.

It was not exactly according to Guineer to grant this, without seeing whether the service could be had of other parties at (or near) the old rates; but the Collins Company had done their work so well, and so creditably to the country, that we, with others, said, "Let them have what they say is enough for a season, and then, if they cannot do their work on admissible terms, we will stop." We believe public sentiment fully sustained this view; and accordingly their allowance was increased from some \$16,000 to \$33,000 per trip, but with a distinct proviso that the Government might terminate the contract altogether, on giving six months' notice, at any time after 1854. And we think this was generous to them, and should have been satisfactory.

Accordingly, the appropriate Committees of both Houses, at the last Session of Congress, were all but unanimous in favor of giving the six months' notice at the earliest day consistent with the existing compact. The House voted to do this by a decisive majority; but a strong opposition was got up in the Senate, and the Mail Steamer Appropriation bill fell between the two Houses.

This Session the struggle was renewed, but with a different result. The Appropriations have been carried through both Houses triumphantly; and not only is no notice given, or directed to be given, preliminary to a termination of the contract, but Congress has actually directed the Government of its right to terminate the service by the extra allowance at any time prior to the expiration of the contract in 1859. That is to say, Congress has obligated the country to pay Collins & Co. \$58,000 per annum for the next six years—or \$5,148,000 in all—for transmitting a Mail once a fortnight each way between New-York and Liverpool—and this in the face of a most responsible proffer to do the work as well for less than half the money. The aggregate sum this week voted to Collins & Co. by Congress, above that for which men every way as able and reliable would have performed the same service, cannot be less than Two Millions of Dollars, and we think is fully Two and a Half Millions. And it is to be noted that the British Government pays the Cunard line less than half the amount per trip that our Government pays the Collins line.

Now if Congress had thrown away this vast sum in a freak of generosity or folly, we might have regretted the waste of money, but we should not have been called to deplore a still more grave calamity. The evil in this case is, that Congress was not deluded—it was corrupted. Where the money came from, we do not legally know—we can only give a Yankee guess—but that money passed this bill—money not merely expended on bidders and wheelers, and the usual outer-shell appliances of lobby legislation—but money counted down into the palms of Members of Congress themselves—this is as clear as the noon day sun. Members who but a few months ago were breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the Collins job have now spoken, canvassed and voted for the still more extravagant provisions of the bill of this Session. Of the Committee on whose Report at the last Session (and the nine Members were unanimous in making it) the House voted that notice to terminate the contract should be given, only three (if we are correctly informed) could be made to stand by their guns at the present Session. The rest had faltered and fallen by the way—possibly not shot through the breeches' pocket with a charge of golden canister—but what can have possessed them to make so glaring an exhibition of recresancy? What, moreover, can have wrought the miraculous transformation of the savagely virtuous Chairmen of the House's Post Office Committee? Brief is the interval since he was loudest in his denunciations of the Collins job, and now, "Behold, he prayeth!" Of course, he must have pondered well the Divine assurance, "Ask, and ye shall receive."

It gives us no pleasure to speak of these things. We would gladly bury them in oblivion, but for the certainty that the fearful precedent established in this case will work immeasurable demoralization in the National Councils and woe to the American People. When Members of Congress are bought and sold like horses at Tattersall's, or second-hand furniture in Chatham st., the malaria of corruption will soon infect the whole atmosphere of the Metropolis. Speculators will lay their plans for getting Millions out of the Treasury, and will coolly calculate the amount requisite to buy their bill through the two Houses. Then any affectation of virtue on the part of Members whose votes are to be had, will only necessitate an addition to the aggregate to be stolen, and no Member can vote for even a good measure by which individuals are to be benefited, without subjecting himself to some taint of the universal rottenness. Men and brethren! think of these things!

Gen. SAM HOUSTON is a candidate for next President, as any native-born citizen has a constitutional right to be, and has lately joined the Baptist Church, and been thoroughly immersed—as was highly proper and advisable—whereupon the Washington correspondent of *The Baptist Christian Watchman and Reflector* says:

"Sam is said to be the candidate of those who know Nothing for the Presidency, and certain it is if he should be elected, the White House will be Americanized, and the rest of the Christian world and temperance will be set to the nation."

—Now be it far from us to intimate that Gen.

Houston is not fervently pious. "An example of 'Christian morals,' and many other good things; but we advise his backers not to brag too high on that tack, and to avoid suggesting insidious comparisons. To repeat, be baptized and even canonized, is all right; but it is not wise to add too directly: 'N. B. Here's your candidate for President—he'll take all the church-going votes in a string.'—It sounds too much like the Indian, who had often solaced his inner man by cider, obtained by the pious dodge, and who rather started his religious preceptor a family by bolting in upon them one evening and reeling off an incoherent string of Scripture terms—'Adam, Eve, Cain, the devil, Job,' &c., &c. 'What can you mean by this rigorous?' queried the astounded man of God. 'I mean cider,' responded the Aborigine, 'what do you suppose?'"

The National Democrat has passed under the Editorial charge of Mr. Gideon J. Tucker, late of Albany, whom we desire to respect and esteem. We were a little surprised, however, to find in his last issue an Editorial filled with such assertions as the following: "The objections urged against him (St. John) by the *Tribune*, we believe, amount, in the main, to a disproof of Mr. Greeley, and a non-concurrence with that personage in the necessity of the Maine Law."

Now this quotation is either the truth or a lie—we will not say which, but let every reader judge for himself. Most certainly, we have never complained of any "disproof" shown us by St. John, and never observed that he had shown us any; and, as to the Maine Law, we never knew, inquired, nor cared, whether he is for or against it.

Why is it that no pettifogger for St. John dare state the simple, naked, incontestably established truth that we asked him, in giving the advertisement of the Bank Returns to one City Journal, to secure that a synopsis of their contents should be prepared for and furnished to all the daily papers which should evince a willingness to publish them for nothing if they should be enabled to do so simultaneously with their appearance in the Superintendent's organ? Does not *The Democrat* know that we took a great deal of trouble and braved powerful hostility for its advantage equally with our own? Then why should it lend its columns to defame and malign us?

The Times has not even yet retracted its calumny that we solicited the Bank Advertising of Mr. St. John, and quarreled with him because he gave it to that paper; though the correspondence which it saw fit to publish most thoroughly demolished that fabrication. Its few and faint echoes, scattered over the State, are to this day repeating that aspersion. So much we may endure in silence; but to have those who labored and risked to serve us, in whose behalf we repudiated the liberal share of the Bank Department's ordinary advertising, which Mr. St. John says he formerly sent to *The Tribune*—turn in and help our traducers, is rather more than we bargained for. Is it not the drop too much, Mr. Tucker?

The friends of Mr. St. John, we understand, admit that in the case of the Excelsior Bank, he had no legal authority for his action, but they justify him, simply by precedent. This is certainly a very weak justification for a dangerous and illegal discretion assumed by a public officer, and in the case of one of the almost incredible efficiency claimed for Mr. St. John by his friends, the plea becomes absurd. It will be made to appear, we understand, also that the Union Bank of Watertown was legally organized at the time the certificate of deposit was made. This, however, is only one of the collateral issues, and not important. The material point must not be overlooked by the public, which is, that the Superintendent gave up stock securities without a particle of authority of law, and received instead a certificate of deposit for forty per cent. of the circulation of the liquidating bank. If he assumes the discretion to do this for forty per cent., he might with equal propriety for eighty or for one hundred per cent.; and if the law be thus violated in one case with impunity, it may be in twenty. There is really no practical difficulty with a Superintendent holding such views, to have the entire currency of the State secured by certificates of deposit in the various banks, and thus that principle of perfect security recognized as the paramount idea of the Banking Law be entirely nullified by the discretion assumed by the Superintendent who administers it. We do not suppose that any such extreme case could possibly occur, but it might naturally follow such a free and easy administration of the Banking Law, as this case of the Excelsior Bank. Such liberties with the requirements of the law, even backed up by precedent, should not be allowed to pass unrebuked. In the case of another Bank which had \$50,000 circulation, Mr. St. John gave up \$30,000 of stocks, or 60 per cent stock certificates of deposit. Such transactions as these must inevitably destroy public confidence in the security of our State circulation. Under such an administration of the law, the public cannot know what securities are pledged for the circulation of the free banks. It is understood, universally, that the Bank Department contains State and Government Stocks, and Bonds and Mortgages, pledged for all the free bank notes, and the note-holder sleeps securely under this impression; yet under the latitude assumed by the Bank Superintendent one-half the free bank circulation of the State may only be secured by certificates of deposits in some of his pet banks. If the Superintendent had a right to secure 40 per cent. of the Excelsior notes by a deposit in the Union Bank of Watertown, he had an equal right to secure 40 per cent. of the circulation of some other bank, by a certificate of deposit in the Lewis County Bank, which went out a short time since with \$2, in cash, in the vaults. Can any one contend that the Free Bank law ever contemplated such a security as this? Again, in the Excelsior Bank case, the liquidation was not carried out in good faith, but the notes when redeemed by the Union Bank were refused, until they became so ragged that they could not be circulated, and were sent in perforce to the Department. The Superintendent allowed this time to go on for more than a year, so that in Sept., 1853, twelve months after the certificate was taken, there were still over \$7,000 of the \$25,000 of notes in circulation. Would up in good faith, there would not have been \$5,000 outstanding three months after commencing liquidation.

Stenographic Durligh is the title of a new book, described as a novel, written by Helen Dhu, and published by that eminent literary authority, Mr. James W. Barker, G. P. of the K. Ns. Of course it is a K. N. publication, showing up the enormities of Seward, Weed and Greeley, and especially their collusion with Bishop Hughes for the overthrow of American institutions. This may be a very interesting novel, and really mean all it pretends to, but we know that it was offered, not precisely in its present form throughout, perhaps, to the proprietors of *The Tribune* a few years since, and did not find a market. And Helen Dhu (a lady of Scotch birth apparently) may be the author of it now; but then it was Mr. C. Edwards Lester, formerly U. S. Consul at Genoa, inventor of the Ivory Crucifix, and borrower of the portrait of Amerigo Vesputi. We join with the G. P. in hoping the K. N. will buy largely of this remarkable work. It is probably just about the sort of reading their minds require, and it would be a pity if Helen Dhu should not reap a splendid reward for her legnity.

Since the publication of private correspondence has become a means of enriching and enlivening the columns of *The New-York Times*, we have waited in hope that the letters exchanged between the present Lieutenant-Governor and the Bank Superintendent might be given to the world. It is rumored that they were particularly rich and racy, and that in the course

of the correspondence the Superintendent was treated to menaces without parallel in extemporary literature. Shall these fusties of spirit and genius be denied to the world?

THE LATEST NEWS.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 2, 1855.

The President will sign the Callias Steamer bill. The new Tariff bill was killed to-day, after a hard fight.

There is some danger of the duties on Railroad Iron being remitted, but the friends of the iron interest will leave no stone unturned to defeat the measure, and are confident of success.

The New-York Fire bill will probably be lost in the House for want of time. The Bounty Land bill is doubtful.

All sorts of extras and gratuities to office holders are voted into the Appropriation bill. Everything is rushed through. Intense anxiety in the lobby. Many of the leading New-York and Pennsylvania politicians are anxiously awaiting the results here.

FIRE AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Springfield, Friday, March 2, 1855.

A fire broke out at 3 o'clock this morning in the brick block near the railroad depot, owned by Chester W. Chapin, and occupied by Greenleaf & Taylor, paper dealers; Brown & Graves, hardware; and Nelson & Elmer, boot and shoe dealers. The loss is about \$10